

HCB 5 -- COMPUTER PROGRAMMING EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Lauer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "To Introduce" by the Standing Committee on Workforce Development by a vote of 6 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 1.

This bill requires each school district, after the 2017-18 school year, to offer a course on computer programming to all high school students. The bill provides specified options for the school district to develop or use an established curriculum for the course. Students taking the course may have the course count as an elective or practical arts credit. The course shall be taught by a certified teacher and may be offered as an online course or through videoconferencing.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are many unfilled programming and coding jobs in the computer technology field. Currently, school districts may elect to offer programs to educate students in these fields but this bill would require them to do so. Local community colleges can contract with the schools and assist with these offerings, which will keep the fiscal impact low.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Lauer.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.